



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

SV

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/678,893	10/04/2000	ATSUSHI KAKIMOTO	35.C14845	7041
5514	7590	05/31/2005	EXAMINER	
FITZPATRICK CELLA HARPER & SCINTO 30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA NEW YORK, NY 10112		JACOBS, LASHONDA T		
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		2157		

DATE MAILED: 05/31/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/678,893	KAKIMOTO, ATSUSHI
	Examiner LaShonda T. Jacobs	Art Unit 2157

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 March 2005.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-30 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>3/10/05, 3/21/05</u>	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____



DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

This is a Final Office Action in response to Applicant's Amendment/Request for Reconsideration filed on March 10, 2005. Claims 5-6, 8, 13-14, 16, 21-22 and 24 have been cancelled. Claims 1-4, 7, 9-12, 15, 17-20, 23 and 25-30 are also present for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-4, 7, 9-12, 15, 17-20 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goshey et al (hereinafter, "Goshey", U.S. Pat. No. 6,473,783) in view of Stollfus (hereinafter, "Stollfus", U.S. Pat. No. 6,321,258) and in further view of Onaga (U.S. Pat. No. 5,862,404).

As per claims 1, 9 and 17, Goshey discloses an information processing apparatus for use in managing a network system provided with a plurality of information processing apparatuses, each of which to connected is a plurality of shared devices that can be used by at least one other information processing apparatus through the network, said information processing apparatus comprising:

Art Unit: 2157

- management means for managing the information of a plurality of shared devices present in the network system managed by said information processing apparatus (col. 2, lines 41-65, col. 4, lines 39-57, col. 6, lines 57-67 and col. 7, lines 1-60);
- reception means for receiving, from another information processing apparatus, information of a shared device used by the other information processing apparatus (col. 2, lines 41-65, col. 10, lines 39-67 and col. 14, lines 15-47); and

However, Goshey does not explicitly disclose:

- the received information including information of in the plurality of shared devices comprising an updated status and a connected condition;
- recognition means for recognizing which one of the plurality of shared devices has been updated regarding its status, in accordance with the information received by said reception means;
- renewal means for updating the information on a status or connected condition of the shared used by the other information processing apparatus in accordance with a recognition result made by said recognition means; and

Stollfus discloses an administration of networked peripherals using a particular file system including:

- the received information including information of in the plurality of shared devices comprising an updated status and a connected condition (col. 4, lines 7-36, col. 5, lines 4-19, col. 8, lines 16-29 and col. 9, lines 18-26);

Art Unit: 2157

- recognition means for recognizing which one of the plurality of shared devices has been updated regarding its status, in accordance with the information received by said reception means (col. 5, lines 4-19 and col. 9, lines 11-26); and
- renewal means for updating the information on a status or connected condition of the shared used by the other information processing apparatus in accordance with a recognition result made by said recognition means (col. 9, lines 1-26, col. 10, lines 54-67 and col. 11, lines 1-11).

Given the teaching of Stollfus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Goshey by including an administration program to send, evaluate and report the status of a resource in response to the evaluation in order to provide status information to the client/user in a timely and efficient manner.

Goshey in view of Stollfus discloses the invention substantially as claims discussed above.

However, Goshey in view of Stollfus does not explicitly disclose:

- display means for displaying the information on the status or the connected condition of the shared device updated by said renewal means and the information of the plurality of shared devices managed by said management means on a same screen of said display means.

Onaga discloses a network device discovery and status information distribution using independent information distribution processes comprising:

- display means for displaying the information on the status or the connected condition of the shared device updated by said renewal means and the information of the plurality of

shared devices managed by said management means on a same screen of said display means (col. 5, lines 26-35 and col. 7, 57-64).

Given the teaching of Onaga, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Goshey in view Stollfus by including a device status file to be displayed within the network administrator screen in order to obtain device status information from the peripheral device and relay the information to other workstations thereby providing a system where workstations on a network can rapidly obtain information concerning the status of the networked peripheral devices.

As per claims **2, 10 and 18**, Goshey discloses:

- wherein said reception means includes first reception control means for designating a group satisfying a predetermined condition and receiving the information of the shared device included in the group (col. 2, lines 41-65 and col. 10, lines 39-67).

As per claims **3, 11 and 19**, Goshey discloses:

- wherein said reception means includes second reception control means for detecting a log-on operation of another information processing apparatus to the network system and receiving the information of the shared devices managed by the other information processing apparatus (col. 11, lines 66-67 and col. 12, lines 1-62).

As per claims **4, 12 and 20**, Goshey discloses:

- wherein said reception means is adapted, at a log-on operation to the network system, to automatically receive the information of the plurality of shared devices present on the network system (col. 11, lines 66-67 and col. 12, lines 1-62).

As per claims **7, 15 and 23**, Goshey discloses:

Art Unit: 2157

- wherein said renewal means is adapted, in response to the detection of a log-off operation of another information processing apparatus from the network system, to invalidate the information of the shared devices managed by the other information processing apparatus (col. 8, lines 22-43, line 67, col. 9, lines 1-14, col. 10, lines 32-50 and lines 57-67).

3. Claims 25-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stollfus in view of Onaga.

As per claims 25, 27 and 29, Stollfus discloses an information processing apparatus for communicating with at least one other information processing apparatus and a plurality of devices via a communication link, and managing a plurality of shared devices said apparatus comprising:

- management means for managing information of a plurality of shared devices managed by said information processing apparatus (col. 5, lines 4-19);
- obtaining means for obtaining information, from another information processing apparatus, information on a status or connected condition of a plurality of devices managed by other information processing apparatus (col. 4, lines 7-36, col. 5, lines 4-19, col. 8, lines 16-29 and col. 9, lines 18-26); and
- recognition means for recognizing which one of the plurality of devices managed by other information processing apparatus has been updated regarding its status or connected condition, in accordance with the information obtained by said obtaining means (col. 5, lines 4-19, col. 8, lines 16-29 and col. 9, lines 11-26).

However, Stollfus does not explicitly disclose:

- display means for displaying, on a display of said information processing apparatus, the information on the status or the connected condition of the plurality of devices managed by other information processing apparatus, in accordance with a recognition result made by said recognition means, and information on a status or a connected condition of the plurality of shared devices managed by said information processing apparatus in accordance with the information managed by said management means.

Onaga discloses a network device discovery and status information distribution using independent information distribution processes comprising:

- display means for displaying, on a display of said information processing apparatus, the information on the status or the connected condition of the plurality of devices managed by other information processing apparatus, in accordance with a recognition result made by said recognition means, and information on a status or a connected condition of the plurality of shared devices managed by said information processing apparatus in accordance with the information managed by said management means (col. 5, lines 26-35 and col. 7, 57-64).

Given the teaching of Onaga, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Goshey in view Stollfus by including a device status file to be displayed within the network administrator screen in order to obtain device status information from the peripheral device and relay the information to other workstations thereby providing a system where workstations on a network can rapidly obtain information concerning the status of the networked peripheral devices.

As per claims **26, 28 and 30**, Stollfus discloses:

- wherein said display means displays on the display of the information processing apparatus information on the status or the connected condition by icon changes (col. 9, lines 1-26, col. 10, lines 54-67 and col. 11, lines 1-11).

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims **1-4, 7, 9-12, 15, 17-20, 23** and **25-30** have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

JP 07021470 A to Imai

JP 62211762 to Kurita et al

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37

Art Unit: 2157

CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LaShonda T. Jacobs whose telephone number is 571-272-4004. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 A.M.-5:00 P.M..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached on 571-272-4001. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

LaShonda T Jacobs
Examiner
Art Unit 2157

Itj
May 24, 2005



SALEH NAJJAR
PRIMARY EXAMINER